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A LILAC DIGEST

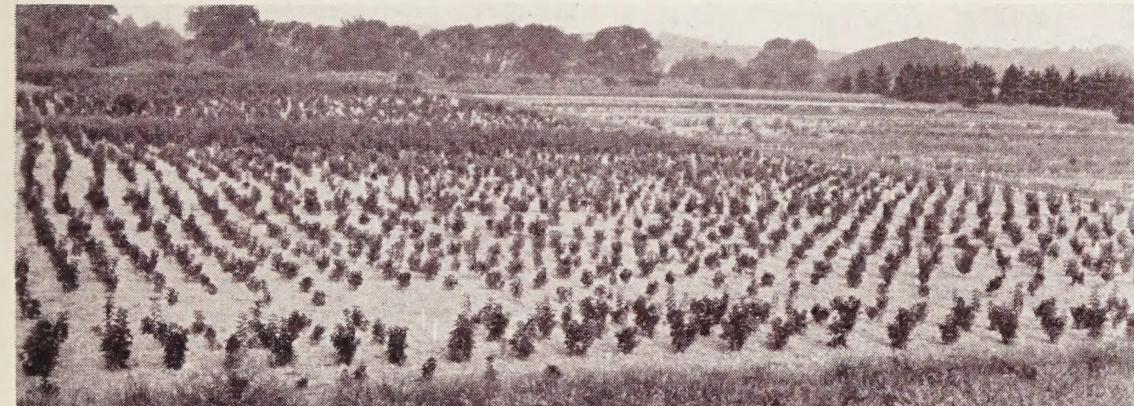
IN MY MOTHER'S GARDEN WERE
GREEN-LEAVED HIDING PLACES—
NOOKS BETWEEN THE LILACS—
AH, A PLEASANT PLACE TO PLAY.
—Margaret Widdemer.



For more than 20 years Lilac Time has been Festival Time for Mannsville, N. Y., when George Staplin's Lilacs bloom. Plants from Farr.



Every row of Farr Lilacs is plainly staked for the convenience of visitors and to insure accurate digging.



One-fourth of the Farr Lilac fields. Photo was taken at right angle to rows, showing wide spacing which permits extra-bushy plants. Daylily tract, right background.



Alphabetically planted (see stakes) to insure trueness. Bushy and multi-stemmed.



A few years ago we supplied a regular routine order for 86 Lilacs in 62 varieties to the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y. This photograph of the plants was made in the spring three years later. Every plant is true to name, thriving, and in bloom.

WHY LILACS?

In this country no flower has had a longer popularity than the Lilac, as can easily be proved by the number of fine old clumps that are seen growing by the foundations of burnt or abandoned farmhouses in New England and the Middle States.

These plants were once the only bit of color and beauty that found its way into the hard lives of our pioneer settlers, and they are now often the only remaining evidence of a former home.

Today, in spite of competition from more recently introduced plants, the Lilac remains the most important and the most popular of our spring-blooming shrubs, and rightly so, for it is hardy everywhere, grows well, and gives abundant crops of wonderfully fragrant flowers each year, with little or no care.

WHY HYBRID LILACS?

It is hard to have too many Lilacs. The old purple variety grown by our grandparents and great grandparents is still a good sort to plant, but use with it an assortment of the modern hybrids that cover such a fine color-range and give such a long season of bloom.

Those who know only the old white and purple Lilacs can have no idea of the wonderful beauty of the modern hybrids, of the varying colors, beginning with white, going through shades of pink, blue, violet, and purple, the flowers single and double and varying greatly in form of truss and in blooming season.

Common and old-fashioned Lilacs usually do not bloom until they attain a large size. French Hybrid Lilacs, if undisturbed, frequently bloom when 18 inches tall and within a relatively short time after transplanting.

Their blooms are much larger and more numerous and there are singles and doubles and a dozen distinct and rare shades of color.

They need less attention than roses, evergreens, or fruit trees and require no more room or maintenance cost than the common and ordinary flowering shrubs.

WHY FARR LILACS?

Farr Lilacs bear at least double the standard number of stems and branches per foot height. They are all own-rooted, extra-well-branched and bushy specimens.

We set the young plants very deeply in the nursery row so as to obtain extra stems and sprouts. As they are spaced for two-way cultivation instead of crowding them into solid nursery rows, they do not "thin" each other. Thousands of visitors annually attest to the trueness and immaculateness of our field planting.

Farr Lilacs are guaranteed to grow and to be true to name. See guarantee on next column.

WHERE TO PLANT

Plant in a sunny and well-drained location, not in full shade or in low or wet spots. All varieties are alike in their requirements.

Plant as hedges, borders, beds, along foundations and as specimens. A Lilac hedge serves the double purpose of bloom and screen.

Lilacs prefer cold winters and we do not recommend them for the Gulf States region.

WHEN TO PLANT

In fall, after leaves drop and until the ground freezes; in spring, after the ground opens and until the buds sprout.

HOW TO PLANT

Comprehensive planting and cultural instructions are supplied with order acknowledgments.

7-POINT GUARANTEE

- Point 1. Trueness to name.
- Point 2. Shapely and well branched.
- Point 3. Abundance of own roots.
- Point 4. Fully up to size specified.
- Point 5. Free of disease and insects.
- Point 6. Exceptionally well packed for fresh and undamaged arrival.

Point 7. WE WILL REPLACE ANY PLANTS THAT FAIL TO GROW, provided the account is settled within regular 30-day terms and report of failure is made by May 1, following fall shipment; or by October 1, following spring shipment.

The cost of planting, or transportation of replacements, is borne by the purchaser.

TERMS. Open account—30 days to established credit or net cash with order. Transportation at cost.

Extensive Lilac Collections

Recently Supplied by Farr

One of these may be in your locality for you to see and enjoy.

- Miss Marjorie Allison, Allentown, Pa.
- C. A. Beck, Bethlehem, Pa.
- Mrs. Warren Bicknell, Cleveland, Ohio
- Mrs. Edw. E. Brown, Waupaca, Wis.
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio
- Mrs. Harold Cornwall, Beaver Falls, N. Y.
- Mrs. Francis Crane, Golden St., Holliston, Mass.
- William C. Dickerman, Milton, Pa.
- Mrs. Pierre S. du Pont, Longwood, Kennett Square, Pa.
- Mrs. J. T. Dorrance, Woodcrest, Radnor, Pa.
- Mrs. Thomas H. Hall, Jr., Essex Club, Newark, N. J.
- Mrs. F. C. Helwig, Kansas City, Kans.
- Mrs. Robert Owen Horton, Lynchburg, Va.
- Mrs. H. L. Iglesias, Elizabethtown, Ky.
- Mrs. Raymond Koch, Winnetka, Ill.
- Laurelton Cemetery Co., Reading, Pa.
- Linden Hall, Lititz, Pa.
- N. Y. Botanical Gardens, New York City
- N. Y. Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y.
- Mr. William J. Peck, Pittston, Pa.
- Perkiomen Seminary, Pennsburg, Pa.
- Phoebe Home, Allentown, Pa.
- Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, Canada
- Reading Museum, Reading, Pa.
- Mrs. W. A. Rinehart, Charlottesville, Va.
- E. K. Schultz, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Mrs. Arthur Scott, Todmorden Farms, Media, Pa.
- G. E. Smith, Lansing, Mich.
- Louis Vetault & Son, East Hampton, N. Y.
- Ernest O. Wagner, Lakeville, Conn.
- Mr. T. A. Whelan, Weston, W. Va.



Lilac Lucie Baltet in the Farr Display Garden. Lilacs want to grow and bloom for generations. The best require no more room or attention.

DIGEST OF THE BEST LILACS



Double Lilac, William Robinson

WHICH TO PLANT. We have discarded more than 150 lesser varieties of Lilacs. You can order from this remaining list, according to color preference and price, with assurance that every variety offered is a "Master" Lilac.

THE BEST DOZEN. Prof. Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum used to say that "the best lilacs are those which bloom best this year." Bertrand H. Farr used to say—"all lilacs are beautiful, only some years some are more beautiful than others."

Individual tastes, as to color shades and single or double bloom, vary so greatly that Lilacs simply cannot be boiled down to a Best Dozen by anyone with more than passing familiarity.

The writer of this Lilac Digest has checked Farr Lilacs and visitor preference for twenty years in an effort toward the selection of the **Fifty Best Lilacs**.

Our recommendation always has been to select an order according to color, type and price preference. Our descriptions scrupulously avoid superlative terms such as "sensational," "amazing," "most beautiful." Such terms could be truthfully applied to all of these Digest Lilacs when well grown.

DIGEST LIST OF DOUBLE LILACS

DOUBLE WHITE

DOUBLE BLUE

DOUBLE BLENDS AND TRICOLORS

EDITH CAVELL. Opens from cream to pure milk-white in large, long, cone-shaped trusses. Like Ellen Willmott except slightly later, a bit more loosely constructed and has sulphur-yellow buds. Strong grower. Late. Type 5 florets. 18 to 24 in., \$3.

ELLEN WILLMOTT. Generally classed as the best white double Lilac. Immense, conical trusses of creamy white. Florets an inch across, type 5, almost double the size of most Lilac florets, excepting such as Edith Cavell, Leon Gambetta, Maréchal Lannes, President Poincaré, President Fallières, and Henri Martin. 18 to 24 in., \$3.25; 2 to 3 ft., \$4.

JEANNE d'ARC. Large; pure white, including stamens. Plump, creamy buds opening to cockled, type 3, florets. Medium grower. Early midseason. Long-stemmed. 18 to 24 in., \$2.50.

MME. CASIMIR-PERIER. The old favorite white. Very free and fragrant. Yellow stamens. Medium-large trusses. Type 6 florets. Strong-growing. Midseason. 18 to 24 in., \$1.50; 2 to 3 ft. \$2.25.

DOUBLE PINK

BELLE de NANCY. Large, loosely conical, bright pink trusses. Florets are satiny rose, type 3, with white center. An old and favorite variety. Strong grower. Early midseason. 18 to 24 in., \$1.50; 2 to 3 ft., \$2.25; 3 to 4 ft., \$3.

JULES SIMON. Bright rose buds, opening to type 5 florets, forming large, cockled and spurred trusses of delicate pink. Some years, better than Leon Gambetta. Erect and long-stemmed grower. Midseason. 2 to 3 ft., \$2.25; 3 to 4 ft., \$3.

LEON GAMBETTA. At least our favorite for 20 years because of size, structure, delicate color, plant habit and free bloom. Largest, compact and long-stemmed trusses, from largest, type 5 florets, like small roses, from largest plump, rosy lilac buds. Clear, even, delicate pink which, however, may be almost white until plants are established or if very hot and dry. Strong, upright specimen grower. Midseason. Always scarce. 18 to 24 in., \$4.

MME. ANTOINE BUCHNER. Similar to Leon Gambetta in every respect, except of slightly less compact truss construction and slightly darker pink. Type 7 florets. Quite often the Best Lilac of the Show at the flower shows we help to judge. Unable to supply demand for the past five years until now. 2 to 3 ft., \$4.

PRESIDENT FALLIERES. Large and showy trusses of rosy pink from large and conspicuous rose-mauve buds. Practically identical to Leon Gambetta but darker and more trusses per stem. Type 3 florets. 18 to 24 in., \$2.25; 2 to 3 ft., \$3.

WALDECK-ROUSSEAU. Large; loose-panicled, but very double; tender pink. Buds purple. Florets, type 3, tipped darker and centered white. *Latest of the hybrids.* Medium grower. 2 to 3 ft., \$2.50.

WILLIAM ROBINSON. Brightest of the double pinks. Trusses profuse, large, very compact, symmetrical, long-stemmed. Florets type 5, incurved and spurred. Has a bit of the coppery pink characteristic of Lucie Baltet. Medium grower. Midseason. 2 to 3 ft., \$2.50; 3 to 4 ft., \$3.25.

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A typical hybrid Lilac truss, two-thirds actual size. See Ellen Willmott description for list of varieties with trusses like this.

LILAC COLLECTIONS

WEISER PARK COLLECTION Doubles

MME. CASIMIR-PERIER. White. 18 to 24 in. \$1.50

WILLIAM M. ROBINSON. Pink. 2 to 3 ft. \$2.50

RENE JARRY-DESLOGES. Blue. 2 to 3 ft. \$2.50

GEORGES BELLAIR. Red. 2 to 3 ft. \$2.50

PRESIDENT POINCAIRE. Tricolor. 2 to 3 ft. \$2.75

These four varieties, amounting to \$11.75, as a collection, complete for \$10.00

These five varieties, amounting to \$11.75, as a collection, complete for \$10.00

Note. Orders omitting some of these varieties, or selected from both collections, may be placed at list prices less 10 per cent.

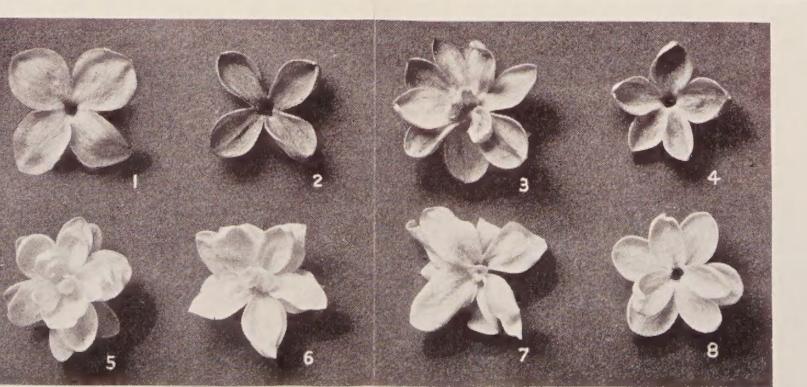
SIBERIAN IRIS SPECIAL

The most delicate and elegant of the small-flowered Irises. They have narrow, grassy foliage, with tall stems and flowers of various shades of blue, with gold and white markings. Very free-flowering and one of the best for cutting. Even gentians and delphiniums cannot surpass the blue shadings of Siberian Irises.

EMPEROR. Dark blue. **PERRY'S BLUE.** Bright China blue.

Minimum order, five plants of either or both combined. Specify how many of each are desired.

5 plants @ 25 cts. each
10 plants @ 20 cts. each
25 plants @ 18 cts. each
50 plants @ 16 cts. each



The principal variations in the construction of Lilac florets. Specified in Farr descriptions.

DIGEST LIST OF SINGLE LILACS

SINGLE BLUE

BLEUATRE. Large, symmetrical and solid, deep blue trusses composed of many small florets, type 2. Medium grower; Early. 18 to 24 in., \$2; 2 to 3 ft., \$2.75.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS. Clear-toned blue, ending to tender lilac. Large, widely conical, compact trusses, composed of large, deeply cupped, type 1 florets in a very symmetrical pattern. Slow-growing. Late midseason. 18 to 24 in., \$3; 2 to 3 ft., \$4.

DECAISNE (synonym, *Decorative*). Long, loose and graceful trusses of clear, azure-blue. Usually sold out. Slow-growing. Late midseason. Type 2 florets. 2 to 3 ft., \$3; 3 to 4 ft., \$3.75.

DE MIRABEL. Sold out since 1937 because of visitor demand. Darkest violet-blue. Slender, long, compact and upright trusses. Slow-growing. Late. Type 2 florets. 2 to 3 ft., \$3.50; 3 to 4 ft., \$4.25.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN. Large compound clusters of deep, even-toned Wedgwood-blue florets of type 4. Medium grower. Early. 18 to 24 in., \$2.25; 2 to 3 ft., \$3.

LA PLACE. Compact; ashy claret-violet. Close to Congo except truss slightly more slender and shade darker. Type 2 florets. 2 to 3 ft., \$2.25; 3 to 4 ft., \$3.

SATURNALE. Another mostly "sold out" variety which we were fortunate to replenish from France a few years ago.

Even powder-blue. Very large, abundant and symmetrical trusses. Florets, type 1, and larger than a nickel, distinctly overlapping each other. Strong grower. Midseason. 18 to 24 in., \$2.75; 2 to 3 ft., \$3.

MARCEAU. Floret and truss size equals Diderot and Massena but slightly lighter shade of red. Florets deeply cupped, type 1. Slow-growing. Late. Rarely available. 2 to 3 ft., \$5.

MASSENA. Deeply cupped of darkest, ashy red, type 1, florets. Slow grower. Late. Like Diderot except trusses not quite as slender; like Marceau except slightly darker. These three are the newest, largest and darkest single reds. 2 to 3 ft., \$5.

VESTALE. Stately, hyacinth-trussed white; like a lacy cone, from type 1 florets. Earliest white. Medium grower. 18 to 24 in., \$2.50.

MME. F. MOREL. Longest stems of all Lilacs, each surmounted by four to five, immense, symmetrical panicles of a rare shade between lilac-red and lilac-pink. Our favorite "cutter" and outstanding in the garden. Purple buds opening to clear pink. Medium growth. Midseason. 18 to 24 in., \$2.50.

MONGE. This rivals Congo in popularity, among the single reds, with our visitors. Trusses are equal in size to Congo but are composed of more and smaller, type 4, florets. Slightly more conical than Congo and broader based. Medium grower. Early. 18 to 24 in., \$2.25; 2 to 3 ft., \$3.

MACROSTACHYHA. Pink like Trailing Arbutus or *Viburnum Carlesii*. Large, loose trusses. Extremely fragrant. True stock specially and fortunately imported from France a few years ago to remedy constantly sold-out condition occasioned by visitors. Sometimes termed tenderest pink. Well to plant in part shade to prevent fading to white during hot seasons. Upright, vigorous grower. Type 1 florets. 18 to 24 in., \$2.50.

REAMUR. A distinct tone of red or rosy carmine, in the Maréchal Foch color class. Giant and profuse sprays from buds of pink-violet. Type 1 florets. 2 to 3 ft., \$2.75; 3 to 4 ft., \$3.50.

SOUV. LUDWIG SPAETH. The best-known single dark crimson-red. Long stems; medium-sized but very free trusses. Type 2 florets. 3 to 4 ft., \$2.50.

PERSICA ALBA (White Persian Lilac).

General habit identical to *Persica Rubra* but color is relatively white (really white, flushed pink). Loose, airy trusses. Very bushy, with many slender and twiggy branches, submerged in bloom. Many small leaves. Type 2 florets. 3 to 4 ft., \$3.

PERSICA RUBRA (Persian Lilac). Large, airy trusses of small, dark pink, type 2 florets to an extreme abundance which submerges the plant from top to bottom. Foliage and growth-habit much valued in landscape design. 3 to 4 ft., \$2.50.

PERSICA SAUGEANA. A newer hybrid of Persian Lilac which is darker, almost red. 2 to 3 ft., \$2.25; 3 to 4 ft., \$3.

PUBESCENTS (Hairy Lilac). Beautiful species from the mountains near Peiping. Slender, erect branches form a shrub of remarkable symmetry; there is an airy grace about its blooms which literally cover the plant from the ground up. The dainty blossoms, long-tubed and star-like, possess an exquisite fragrance of which Charles Sargent says—"For its fragrance alone, which is more pungent and delightful than that of any other Lilac, *Syringa pubescens* should find a place in every northern garden." The flowers are lavender-lilac with violet anthers and come in broad panicles; the leaves are small and hairy. This Lilac is one of the rarest in cultivation.

Type 2 floret. Slightly earlier than *Josikaea* and later than the Hybrids. 2 to 3 ft., \$5.

TOMENTELLA (Feltly Lilac). Discovered in the province of Szechuan, China. Introduced by E. H. Wilson, who says, in his "Aristocrats of the Garden," "I thought then that I had never before seen such a handsome species of Lilac. It has foot-high broad panicles of pink to rosy lilac colored flowers." This fragrant species blossoms later than the Common Lilac. Type 2 florets. 3 to 4 ft., \$6.

SINGLE RED

CAPTAIN BALLET. A difficult to describe, translucent, shade of violet-red—color of Lilac Maréchal Foch which was the hit of New York World's Fair. Slow and bushy grower. Floret 1. Midseason. 18 to 24 in., \$2.

CHARLES X. Violaceous red. Old but still outstanding because of extremely profuse and dependable bloom. Strong, many-branched grower. 12 to 18 in., \$1.

CONGO. Large, broad trusses of wallflower-red composed of medium type 1 florets to compact lacy effect. A visitor favorite. Strong-growing. Early. 18 to 24 in., \$2.75; 3 to 4 ft., \$3.

DIDEROT. Of very largest and deeply cupped claret-purple, type 1 florets, forming largest, pointed spires of bloom. Slow-growing. Late. 2 to 3 ft., \$5.

EDMOND BOISSIER. Loose, large and of slenderest truss. Of darkest red and deeply cupped, type 1 florets. Late. Medium grower. 3 to 4 ft., \$4.50.

LA PLACE. Compact; ashy claret-violet. Close to Congo except truss slightly more slender and shade darker. Type 2 florets. 2 to 3 ft., \$2.25; 3 to 4 ft., \$3.

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